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(54) Title: IMMUNE MODULATION BY REGULATING EXPRESSION OF THE "MINOR" GENE IN IMMUNE DENDRITIC CELLS

(57) Abstract: Mitogen induced nuclear orphan receptor (MINOR) is described as inducing apoptosis in dendritic cells (DCs). Downregulation of its expression results in a downregulation of apoptosis. A novel approach of inhibiting DC apoptosis is described employing small interfering RNA (siRNA) that targets MINOR. Improved DC-based vaccines exhibiting longer lifespan of DCs, increased potency of DCs, and enhanced immunogenicity are described.